

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JUN 29 1987  
date entered AUG 3 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Sherburn Commercial Historic District

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Main Street North between Front and Second Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Sherburn N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Martin code 091

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple--See Continuation Sheets - pages 1 and 2

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Martin County Courthouse

street & number Lake Avenue

city, town Fairmont state Minnesota 56031

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1985-86 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111



# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates      1898-1908      Builder/Architect      Unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sherburn Commercial Historic District, located on Main St. N. in downtown Sherburn, is architecturally significant as an extant collection of turn of the century commercial buildings which serve as excellent examples of commercial architecture of the period. Historically, the district provides a strong visual and historical link to Sherburn's development as a turn of the century railroad community which existed as a trade and service center supplying the surrounding farmlands.

In 1878 the Southern Minnesota Railroad (later the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul) constructed railroad tracks east to west through the center of Martin County, thereby establishing the county's first rail line. The population of the county doubled during the next ten years and nearly doubled again during the following ten years as the rail line opened the frontier to settlement. Sherburn (originally spelled Sherburne and named for Sherburne S. Merrill, General Manager of the railroad company) was the name given to an isolated stopping point in Manyaska Township. The stop remained essentially vacant until 1884 when the town of Sherburn was platted on the site as Martin County's third established townsite.

Sherburn quickly developed as a typical rural Minnesota railroad community. To facilitate the export of local farm products, grain elevators and other agricultural related structures were built along the tracks near the depot. The town's business district, located perpendicular to the tracks, was rapidly built up with small businesses established to supply newly immigrated farmers with food staples, lumber, hardware, clothing, and manufactured goods, all brought to Sherburn on the train. Commerce in the town received an additional boost in 1899 when a second rail line, the Minneapolis and St. Louis, was built through the town.

The buildings in the Sherburn commercial historic district represent many of the components essential to a young, thriving railroad townsite. Grocery, clothing, and drug stores, saloons, banks, and a post office occupied storefronts in the buildings. Doctors, lawyers, and the local telephone company occupied second story offices. One of the largest and most important buildings in the district, the Haber Hotel, is an excellent example of a typical turn of the century railroad hotel which served a clientele travelling to and through Sherburn on the train.

Many of the buildings in the district are second generation brick buildings which replaced earlier woodframe structures which were more modest in size and design and dangerously susceptible to fire. The fifteen buildings in the historic district were constructed during a relatively brief, approximately ten year period and represent efforts to construct substantial, handsome, and permanent structures in architectural styles popular at the time. The buildings attest to the optimism which infused new communities established along Minnesota's frontier rail lines, communities which looked to a future of sustained economic growth linked to continued expansion of agriculture and the railroad

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

A Centennial History of Sherburn. Edited by Elizabeth Rooney. Research by Francis M. Theobald. 1978.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 1.4 acres

Quadrangle name Sherburn Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 5	3 6 0 6 5 0	4 8 3 4 6 4 5	B	1 5	3 6 0 7 7 0	4 8 3 4 6 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 5	3 6 0 7 8 0	4 8 3 4 5 7 0	D	1 5	3 6 0 6 6 5	4 8 3 4 5 5 0
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet - page 10

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger/Contract Historian

organization State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota Historical Society

date February 1986

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Nina M. Archabal

Nina Archabal

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/25/87

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 8-3-87

John M. Brown  
Keeper of the National Register

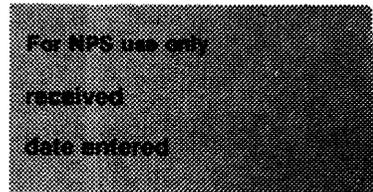
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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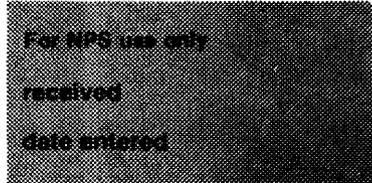
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OWNERSHIP LIST

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 27 Main Street North  | Anadeta Seifert<br>410 North Prairie<br>Sherburn, MN 56171  |
| 29 Main Street North  | Farmers State Bank<br>33 Main Street<br>Sherburn, MN 56171  |
| 31 Main Street North  | Farmers State Bank<br>33 Main Street<br>Sherburn, MN 56171  |
| 33 Main Street North  | Farmers State Bank<br>33 Main Street<br>Sherburn, MN 56171  |
| 101 Main Street North | Vernie E. and Lila M. Morgan<br>Sherburn, MN 56171<br><br>Victor C. and M.A. Youngwirth<br>112 South Main<br>Sherburn, MN 56171 |
| 103 Main Street North | Edmund J. Kasper<br>Box 274<br>Sherburn, MN 56171   |
| 105 Main Street North | Howard L. and Donna M. Boers<br>Rt. 3, Box 190<br>Buckeye, Arizona 85326  |
| 107 Main Street North | Duane L. Nelson<br>Box 313<br>Sherburn, MN 56171  |
| 109 Main Street North | City of Sherburn<br>Sherburn, MN 56171  |

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OWNERSHIP LIST

24 Main Street North

Sherburn VFW Post #8261  
Sherburn, MN 56171  
c/o Raymond L. Muso  
Box 87  
Sherburn, MN 56171

26 Main Street North

Raymond and Ella Goettler  
Sherburn, MN 56171

28 Main Street North

Ronald R. Yahnke et al  
Sherburn, MN 56171

30 Main Street North

Interstate Power Company  
1000 Main Street  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

32 Main Street North

K.L. and K Subhashini Reddy  
32 Main Street North  
Sherburn, MN 56171

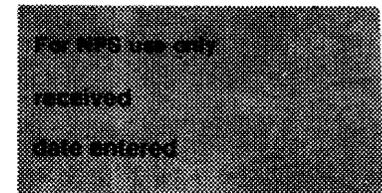
100 Main Street North

Northwest Federal Savings and Loan  
101 West 5th Street  
Spencer, Iowa 51301

John F. Yurcek, Sr.  
Sherburn, MN 56171

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with foliated detailing topped by raised brick arches and unusual corbelling. Between the windows is a limestone date plate. A rectangular parapet bearing the name "Chard" originally rose above the metal cornice. The storefront, although altered, retains rockfaced limestone piers at the outer edges of the building. Exterior alterations to the building have included removing the upper parapet and name plate, installing second story aluminum combination windows, and altering the storefront. The Chard Building now houses the offices of the Sherburn Insurance Agency. In circa 1939 the building housed a store selling Peerless Shoes.

3.    Address:            31 Main St. N.  
      Historic Name:    Enberg's Food Market  
      Present Name:    Farmers State Bank  
      Built:            Circa 1900  
      Condition:        Good  
      Status:            Contributing

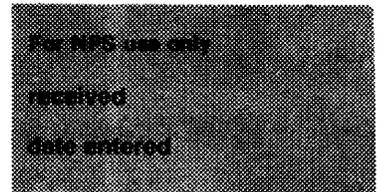
Enberg's Food Market, the only one story building in the historic district, has a main facade faced with reddish-brown brick. The building has an ornate brick parapet wall and cornice with checkerboard patterned brickwork and brick corbelling. The storefront has been remodelled considerably. An early occupant of the building was Enberg's Food Market. The building now houses part of the Farmers State Bank.

4.    Address:            33 Main St. N.  
      Historic Name:    Hamm's Brewing Company Saloon  
      Present Name:    Farmers State Bank  
      Built:            1902  
      Condition:        Good  
      Status:            Contributing

The Farmers State Bank building stands at the southwest corner of Main and First streets and was built in 1902. The two story building is faced with handsome reddish brown pressed brick, with two shades of contrasting darker brown brick trim, and smooth buff colored limestone trim. A metal cornice once topped the building. The three bay main facade and ten bay north wall have rectangular windows openings topped by contrasting horizontal brick bands which radiate from the voussoirs. A smooth stone belt course forms the sills of these windows. The first story of the main facade has a Classical Revival storefront with dark brick pilasters supporting a stone entablature. The intact main entrance has a leaded glass transom and a modern glass door and sidelights topped by an architrave with corbels. The storefront windows on the main and north facade have stone sills. Exterior alterations to the building have included removing the cornice, partially filling the window openings and installing new metal framed windows, and replacing the entrance door. The building was constructed for the Hamm's Brewing Company which operated a saloon inside. It now houses the Farmers State Bank.

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5.    Address:                      101 Main St. N.  
      Historic Name:        Bank of Sherburn  
      Present Name:        Gambles  
      Built:                      Circa 1900  
      Condition:              Good  
      Status:                    Contributing

The building which now houses Gambles stands at the northwest corner of Main and First streets. The two story structure is faced with reddish-brown brick on the main facade and darker brown brick on the south sidewall. The second story of the main facade has a central rounded arched window opening flanked by two rectangular window openings with rockfaced buff colored limestone lintels. Above the outer windows is a row of brick corbelling, and the building was probably originally topped by a metal cornice. The first story storefront has been altered unfortunately. The south sidewall has seven second story rounded arched window openings which have been altered and a rear storefront opening which has been filled. Exterior alterations to the building have included removing the cornice, partially filling the window openings with brick and installing new double hung windows, and altering the storefront. Built circa 1900, the building once housed the Bank of Sherburn and is now occupied by a Gambles store.

6.    Address:                      103 Main St. N.  
      Historic Name:        Bank of Sherburn  
      Present Name:        Bakery  
      Built:                      Circa 1905  
      Condition:              Good  
      Status:                    Contributing

The building which now houses Sherburn's bakery was possibly constructed as an addition to the building immediately to the south (formerly the Bank of Sherburn). The bakery building is a two story structure faced with reddish-brown brick which has two pairs of rectangular window openings with stone lintels at the second story. The main facade was once topped by a metal cornice. The first story contains one of the most intact storefronts within the historic district. The storefront retains a cast metal storefront lintel and cornice and leaded storefront transoms. Exterior alterations to the building have included removing the metal cornice and brick corbelling, replacing the windows, and altering the storefront. This building once housed a portion of the Bank of Sherburn and is now occupied by a bakery.

7.    Address:                      105 Main St. N  
      Historic Name:        Post Office  
      Present Name:        Lorraine's  
      Built:                      Circa 1905  
      Condition:              Good  
      Status:                    Contributing

The two story building which now houses Lorraine's is faced with light brown pressed brick, with buff colored limestone trim. The main facade, which is largely intact

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above the first story, has a brick cornice with corbelling (which was once topped by a brick projection at the center of the building), three rectangular double hung windows with smooth brick lintels and sills, and a row of decorative brickwork between the first and second stories. The storefront has been altered, although it retains a recessed entrance. Exterior alterations to the building have included replacing the second story windows, removing the upper part of the brick cornice, and altering the storefront. This building once housed Sherburn's post office on the first floor and the offices of the telephone company on the second floor.

- 8. Address: 107 Main St. N.
- Historic Name: F. A. Solobik's Jewelry
- Present Name: Nelson TV
- Built: Circa 1890
- Condition: Good
- Status: Contributing

The building which now houses Nelson TV is the only structure in the historic district which has been altered at the second story, but has one of the district's most intact first story storefronts. The first story has a Victorian storefront which has a recessed entrance and retains cast iron storefront columns. The second story, which one had an ornate brick cornice and two double segmental arched window openings, has been faced with dark brown brick with contrasting brick detailing. Alterations to the building have included resurfacing the second story and minor changes to the storefront. This building once housed F. A. Solobik's Jewelry store and now houses Nelson TV.

- 9. Address: 109 Main St. N.
- Historic Name:
- Present Name: Martin County Branch Library
- Built: Circa 1890
- Condition: Fair
- Status: Contributing

The Martin County Branch Library building is a two story structure which may have been built in conjunction with the building next door to the south, although from the rear appears to be a separate structure. The building has been resurfaced at the second story and on the north sidewall with a thin coat of plaster. Part of the original brick cornice, decorative brickwork above and below segmental arched window openings, and rockfaced limestone sills are still visible on the second story of the main facade. The first story storefront has been refaced with light brown brick with dark brown brick detailing, although it retains a cast iron storefront lintel. Alterations to the exterior have included removing part of the brick cornice, plastering the north wall and part of the main facade, and altering the storefront. The building now houses Sherburn's branch library.

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East Side of the District

10. Address: 24 Main St. N.  
Historic Name:  
Present Name: Sherburn V.F.W. Post 8261  
Built: 1903  
Condition: Good  
Status: Contributing

A two story structure faced with brown pressed brick with rockfaced buff colored limestone detailing, this building is intact above the storefront level. The second story has brickwork laid in a pattern of horizontal bands across the surface, rectangular 1/1 sash with transoms, rockfaced limestone sills and lintels, and a tall brick cornice with corbelling, small domed pinacles, stone coping, and a date plate reading "1903". The second story has been faced with colored metal panels which obscure the storefront. Changes to the storefront and the replacement of the second story windows are the building's primary exterior alterations. The building now houses a portion of the Veterans of Foreign Wars clubrooms.

11. Address: 26 Main St. N.  
Historic Name: Goettler Building  
Present Name: Sherburn TV  
Built: Circa 1895  
Condition: Good  
Status: Contributing

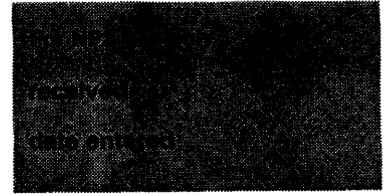
The Goettler Building, which is faced with light tan pressed brick, has some of the fanciest window treatment found in the district. The segmental arched windows at the second story of the main facade have voussoirs comprised of alternating dark brown brick and buff colored limestone blocks. Above the top of the windows is a limestone and brick cornice above which rises an intact parapet wall with a central projection with stone detailing and a name plate reading "Goettler". The outer edges of the second story are defined by brick piers with stone trim. The first story storefront is only slightly altered. It retains cast iron enframing piers, a cast iron lintel, and an original arrangement of windows and doors. Exterior alterations to the building have included partially filling the second story window openings with brick and installing new windows and awnings, and changing the storefront slightly. The Goettler Building now houses Sherburn TV.

12. Address: 28 Main St. N.  
Historic Name:  
Present Name: Key Office Building  
Built: Circa 1900  
Condition: Good  
Status: Contributing

In contrast to the polychromatic Goettler Building immediately to the south, the Key Office Building is a restrained Classical Revival commercial building faced with dark

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brown brick. The central bay of the main facade is topped by a metal cornice which projects above the roofline, and now has a rectangular door in place of a window at the second story. The two outer bays have metal cornices lower than the central cornice and rectangular window openings with stone sills and lintels. Each of the bays is topped by brick corbelling. The building's storefront has been remodelled, a metal second story balcony has been added, the central window converted to a door, and the outer windows replaced. The building now houses offices.

13. Address: 30 Main St. N.  
Historic Name:  
Present Name: Interstate Power  
Built: 1898  
Condition: Good  
Status: Contributing

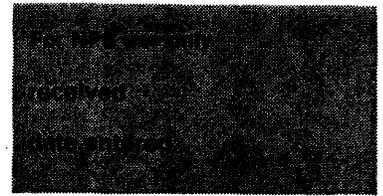
The Interstate Power building, built in 1898, has a dark brown brick facade trimmed with contrasting rockfaced, buff colored limestone. A projecting central parapet with name plate was once situated at the top of the main facade. The cornice is formed by two layers of brick corbelling with heavy stone trim, and the second story rectangular window openings have stone sills and wide lintels. A date stone is situated at the top of the central bay. The first story storefront, which has been remodelled, is enframed by rockfaced limestone piers. Exterior alterations have included filling the second story windows with brick and remodelling the storefront.

14. Address: 32 Main St. N.  
Historic Name:  
Present Name: Sherburn Medical Clinic  
Built: Circa 1905  
Condition: Good  
Status: Contributing

The building which houses the Sherburn Medical Clinic is located at the southeast corner of Main and First streets. The two story structure is faced with brown pressed brick and has rockfaced buff colored limestone detailing. The building is basically intact except for changes to the storefront and the boarding of the first story windows on the north facade. A restrained example of Victorian commercial architecture, the building has simple piers dividing the bays on the west and north facades and rectangular window openings with original 1/1 sash. The wall surfaces have very little detailing except for simple bands of staggered brickwork at the top of each bay.

15. Address: 100 Main St. N.  
Historic Name: Haber Hotel  
Present Name: Sherburn Apartments  
Built: 1903  
Condition: Fair  
Status: Contributing

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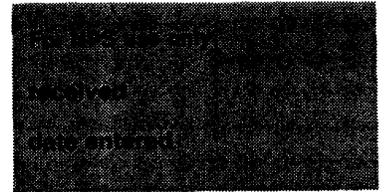
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The Haber Hotel, standing at the northeast corner of Main and First streets is an intact Victorian Romanesque-inspired hotel building faced with light brown brick. The foundation and basement level of the hotel was constructed of coursed ashlar rockfaced limestone, with rectangular window openings. The first story has large rounded arched windows which originally had fanlight transoms, while the second story has windows set into slight segmental arched openings. The four bay west facade has two large rounded arched entrances and a storefront window, while the nine bay south facade has evenly spaced window openings. The building is ornamented with a simple metal cornice, stone springing blocks, and decorative brickwork above each window. A parapet wall rising above the cornice has a name and date plate reading "19 Haber 03". The east (rear) facade has a woodframe, hipped roof porch, supported by square columns with simple capitals. Exterior alterations have included boarding the first story window and door openings, installing new second story windows, and coating the north and east facades with plaster. Originally the Haber Hotel, the building has also been known as the Sherburn Hotel and is now the Sherburn Apartments.

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industry. Rather than steadily growing, however, Sherburn actually decreased in population between 1900 and 1930. Furthermore, although its present population of 1275 represents a substantial increase over the 1900 level of 891 people, the decline of rail transportation and the construction of major highways has dramatically changed the character of Sherburn's downtown commercial district. With improved roads and the convenience of private automobiles, the local supply of goods and services is now largely unnecessary as local farmers and townspeople travel to larger cities to obtain commercial services. As a result, some of the buildings in Sherburn's downtown (although none within the proposed historic district itself) are standing vacant or underused and the economic future of the town's small business sector remains uncertain.

The Sherburn Commercial Historic District was included in an historic sites survey of Martin County conducted recently by the State Historic Preservation Office. The survey staff determined that the historic buildings in Sherburn's central business district are unusually intact both individually and as a group in comparison to commercial districts in other communities of similar size and age in the region. Sherburn's commercial historic district fits within the State Historic Preservation Office's Agricultural Development and Railroad Construction historic context, and provides a valuable example of the rise and subsequent decline of a small town business district whose commercial activity was linked to both agriculture and the fate of the railroad.

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Verbal Boundary Description

That part of the Original Townsite of Sherburn described as follows:  
Beginning at the point of intersection of the east curb line of the North-South alley of Block 3 of the Original Townsite and the Northern lot line of Lot 5 of said Block 3, thence Easterly along the Northern lot line of said Lot 5 to a point of intersection with the west curb line of Main Street, thence Southerly along the west curb line of Main Street to a point of intersection with the extension of the Northern lot line of Lot 18 of Block 4, thence Easterly along the Northern lot line of said Lot 18 to a point of intersection with the west curb of the North-South alley of said Block 4, thence Southerly along the west curb line of the North-South alley of Block 4 and the west curb line of the North-South alley of Block 1 to a point of intersection with the Southern lot line of Lot 11 of Block 1, thence Westerly along the Southern lot line of said Lot 11 to a point of intersection with the west curb line of Main Street, thence Northerly along the west curb line of Main Street to a point of intersection with the Southern lot line of Lot 9 of Block 2, thence Westerly along the Southern lot line of said Lot 9 to a point of intersection with the east curb line of the North-South alley of Block 2, thence Northerly along the east curb line of the North-South alley of Block 2 and the east curb line of the North-South alley of Block 3 to the point of beginning.

